

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

AND OF THE

Receipts and Expenditures,

OF THE

TOWN OF PALMER,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1866.



SPRINGFIELD, MASS.:

PRESS OF THE UNION PRINTING COMPANY.

1866.

SCHOOL REPORT.

THE School Committee, as a part of their duty, respectfully submit to the town of Palmer the following Report of its Schools. These have been visited—at their commencement, during, and at the close of the term. They generally have given highly satisfactory evidence of faithfulness and ability on the part of the several teachers.

There is one prevailing fault, however, in these, as in all schools,—that of hurrying the pupil over too much ground, and allowing the elementary branches but superficial attention. These branches, as well as the higher, require good qualifications on the part of a teacher. The profession is an important one, and no person of indifferent scholarship, or who has not a love for the work, should ever enter upon it. We would recommend the practice of employing a *good* teacher for a series of terms; the peculiarities and temperaments of the scholar being understood by the teacher, much time is saved, and more rapid progress will be made.

Teachers often complain, and justly, too, of the indifference of parents to the educational interests of their children. If parents would see that their children are never tardy, never unnecessarily absent, and

would, by occasional visits to the school-room, show that they are ready to co-operate with the teacher by words of commendation, much greater success might be secured.

We have to record but one decided failure in our schools during the past year—the Winter Term in District No. 4, taught by one who has had years of experience in teaching in our own town. This teacher was duly examined, and found to be well qualified to teach any of the branches taught in our common schools. The school was visited at its commencement, and found to appear as well as other schools in the town. During the term, dissatisfaction arose in the minds of some of the families, and the prejudice continuing to spread, the last week of the term was taught with but one scholar in attendance. The teacher was sustained by the Committee, and the clandestine removal of a portion of the furniture necessary for the comfort of teacher and scholars, in a cold winter's day, did not shorten the school a single day.

We deprecate the practice existing in some of our districts, of parents taking their children away, or allowing them to leave the school, just previous to its close. The influence is bad, not only upon the child thus permitted to stay away, but also upon the other pupils, and extremely annoying and perplexing to the teacher, who may have worked hard through the term with his or her scholars, and hoped to show, at the closing examination, the result of the labor bestowed.

The Committees of past years made recommendations to the town in regard to some of our districts. We shall make none, but will call your attention to

the statistics of the several Districts ; and in them you will see that District No. 7 has three scholars ; No. 8, six ; Nos. 9 and 11, twelve each. We believe some action might be taken which would be beneficial to the town.

At the commencement of the year there were school books of various kinds belonging to the town in the hands of Cyrus Knox, agent, valued at \$97.68, not sufficient in number of any one kind to supply a small class. After a careful examination by the Committee, but \$44.00 worth were found to be of use in our schools ; the balance (\$53.68) were sold to the best advantage for the town. Other books have been bought, and we now have a supply on hand amounting to \$223, in the hands of Gamaliel Collins, agent.

Respectfully submitted.

DWIGHT M. STEBBINS,	} Committee.
WM. HOLBROOK,	
WM. K. VAILLE,	

STATISTICS OF THE SCHOOLS.

NO. 1.—SUMMER TERM.

No.	DISTRICT.	TEACHERS.	Wages	Term in Mos.	Whole No. Schol.	Av. No
1	Old Center,	Eliza Goodwill.	\$20	3	33	24
2	Three Riv. Primary,	Loraine Atwood.	26	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	30
	“ “ Graded,	Mary A. Seaver.	26	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	24
3	Depot Primary,	Nellie Shaw.	23	3	55	38
	“ Intermediate,	H. E. Darté.	26	3	47	35
	“ Graded,	Mary E. Squier.	32	3	43	34
	“ Blanchardville,	Lizzie V. Smith.	22	3	28	25
4	Mason,	L. M. McElwaine.	20	2	20	19
5	Foster,	S. Ella Burgess.	16	2	16	15 $\frac{3}{40}$
6	Burleigh,	Sarah Sedgwick.	24	3	15	13
9	Gamwell,	Julia Colburn.	18	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	8 $\frac{1}{6}$
10	Duckville Primary,	Lizzie A. Peters.	24	3	69	62 $\frac{1}{3}$
	“ Graded,	Lizzie Sedgwick.	24	3	47	36
11	Hastings,	Emily Hyde.	16	3	21	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
12	Thorndike Primary,	Emma Breard.	26	3	51	43
	“ Graded,	M. H. Gordon.	40	3	30	23

NO. 2.—FALL TERM.

1	Old Center,	Eliza Goodwill.	20	2	38	30 $\frac{16}{19}$
4	Mason,	L. M. McElwaine.	20	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	21 $\frac{6}{7}$
10	Duckville Primary,	H. M. Whitney.	24	2	68	56 $\frac{3}{8}$
	“ Graded,	Lizzie A. Peters.	24	2	34	27 $\frac{3}{4}$
12	Thorndike,	Emma Breard.	28	3	63	49

NO. 3.—WINTER TERM.

No.	DISTRICT.	TEACHERS.	Wages	Term	Whole	Av. No
				in Mos.	No. Schol.	
1	Old Center,	Eliza Goodwill.	\$28	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	34
2	Three Riv. Primary,	Loraine Atwood.	30	3	48	46
	“ “ Graded,	Mary A. Seaver.	31	3	42	38
3	Depot Primary,	Fanny Taft.	18	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	48	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
	“ Intermediate,	Nellie Shaw.	24	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	36	29 $\frac{7}{9}$
	“ Graded,	M. H. Gordon.	36	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	41	35
	“ Blanchardville,	Addie Squier.	28	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	27	21 $\frac{1}{30}$
4	Mason,	Lizzie Sedgwick.	24	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	19	16
5	Foster,	Lucy A. Hastings.	22	3	24	19
6	Burleigh,	L. E. Howe.	24	3	16	14
9	Gamwell,	Julia Colburn.	21	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	6
10	Duckville Primary,	Lizzie A. Peters.	24	3	60	50 $\frac{1}{5}$
	“ Graded,	Lysander Thurston.	50	3	44	34
11	Hastings,	Emily Hyde.	20	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	8

NUMBER OF SCHOLARS AND DIVISION OF SCHOOL MONEY.

For 1865-66.

School District.	No. of Scholars.	Divided by Assessor's, \$2000.	State School Fund, \$170.48; Merrick Fund \$82.04.	For Graded Schools, \$100.	By Com. for Small Districts, \$300.	TOTAL.
No. 1	36	\$111 45	\$19 38		\$20 00	\$150 83
No. 2	87	269 34	19 37	\$100 00		388 71
No. 3	174	538 68	19 38	100 00		658 06
No. 4	20	61 93	19 37		60 00	141 30
No. 5	18	55 72	19 38		54 00	129 10
No. 6	21	65 01	19 38		46 00	130 39
No. 7	3	9 30	19 38			28 68
No. 8	6	18 59	19 37			37 96
No. 9	12	37 17	19 38		60 00	116 55
No. 10	140	433 42	19 37	100 00		552 79
No. 11	12	37 17	19 38		60 00	116 55
No. 12	117	362 22	19 38	100 00		481 60
Total,	646	\$2000 00	\$232 52	\$400 00	\$300 00	\$2932 52

Average, per Scholar, \$4.53.

TREASURER'S REPORT

*Of the Receipts and Expenditures for the Year ending
February 28, 1866.*

RECEIPTS.

Balance in the Treasury, March 1st, 1865,		\$1,489.79
Received of Shem Loomis, borrowed,	\$700.00	
“ D. Granger, bal. on S. Loomis' note,	130.00	
“ Treas. of Brimfield, repairing bridge,	65.87	
“ E. B. White, borrowed,	700.00	
“ Shem Loomis, borrowed,	600.00	
“ Leander Breard, borrowed,	160.00	
“ Robert McMasters, borrowed,	650.00	
“ P. W. Webster, borrowed,	150.00	
“ Joseph H. Keith, note and interest,	532.55	
“ State Tr., money deposited for recruits,	650.00	
“ D. B. Bishop, Collector, 1864,	132.84	
“ Wilson Lawrence, borrowed,	400.00	
“ State Treas., school fund,	170.48	
“ Interest from Merrick fund,	62.04	
“ Treas. of Warren, support of O. Hill and wife,	10.00	
“ State Treas., State aid for 1864,	4,400.00	
“ Town of Ware, support of Newcomb at State Reform School,	97.58	
“ Alex. McClelland, goods furnished, '64,	61.00	
“ State Treas., corporation tax,	702.17	
“ O. P. Allen, liquor agent,	90.86	
“ R. S. Hastings, Collector, 1865,	33,996.00	
	<hr/>	\$45,901.18

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for Contingencies,	\$22,037.59	
“ Highways and Bridges,	2,743.60	
“ Support of Poor,	1,319.43	
“ Support of Schools,	2,587.29	
“ State Aid,	2,651.76	
“ Reimbursement of moneys paid for re- cruiting purposes,	7,816.40	
	<hr/>	\$39,156.07

Balance in the Treasury,	\$6,745.11
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Respectfully submitted,

L. DIMOCK, *Treasurer.*

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

EXPENDITURES.

SCHOOLS.

	Paid out.		Due the Districts.
District No. 1,	\$197.51	District No. 1,	\$10.00
" No. 2,	220.00	" No. 2,	196.17
" No. 3,	568.60	" No. 3,	102.75
" No. 4,	113.50	" No. 4,	36.85
" No. 5,	42.50	" No. 5,	154.75
" No. 6,	141.85	" No. 6,	94.46
" No. 9,	162.50	" No. 7,	14.00
" No. 10,	287.38	" No. 8,	89.98
" No. 11,	49.50	" No. 9,	15.58
" No. 12,	329.56	" No. 10,	315.16
		" No. 11,	92.99
		" No. 12,	26.91
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	\$2,112.90		\$1,149.60

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Paid L. Dimock, recording marriages and deaths,	\$29.60
L. Dimock, express, stationery, &c.,	25.91
J. K. Knox, services as assessor,	25.00
David Knox, undertaker,	60.00
L. Dimock, cash paid on bonds, and services,	80.88
P. W. Webster, recruiting,	4.00
John Clough, making valuation to the State,	4.50
Abel Webber, undertaker, and returning deaths,	2.35
Geo. W. Randall, raising recruits,	40.00
E. B. Gates, cash paid out, in and out of town,	24.50
E. B. Gates, services as selectman,	47.50
E. B. Gates, services as overseer poor,	22.00
S. B. Olds, painting blinds town house,	21.11
E. Turner, undertaker,	3.30
S. H. Phelps, damage for horse breaking leg on highway,	55.00
Patrick Sullivan, abatement taxes, 1865,	4.75
Jonathan McElwaine, undertaker,	22.20
Gamaliel Collins, services on road between Ware and Warren,	18.00
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Amount carried forward,	\$490 60

Amount brought forward,	\$490.60
Paid Purlin Shearer, damage on highway,	9.00
James Gamwell, services as assessor, and blank book,	94.00
A. R. Smith, services as assessor,	70.50
Bacon & Aldrich, services in Calkins case,	300.00
G. M. Fisk & Co., printing, 1863-4,	58.00
Michael Mack, abatement taxes,	3.60
John Clough, services as assessor, and stationery,	95.88
D. M. Stebbins, services as school committee,	39.00
Daily Union, printing reports,	30.00
D. G. Potter, costs of Court in Calkins case,	114.49
J. B. R. Pettie, services as school committee,	16.17
State Reform School, for the support of Newcomb boy,	8.36
E. B. Gates, services as school committee,	6.00
Treasurer Wilbraham, schooling children,	4.50
Treasurer Brimfield, " "	10.57
Gamaliel Collins, school books,	125.00
Orison Hill, abatement taxes,	3.02
R. S. Hastings, collecting taxes and making returns to the selectmen,	153.00
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	\$1,631.69

 BRIDGES.

Paid for P. P. Potter, plank,	\$117.56
J. O. Hamilton, labor,	3.00
Asa Canterbury, labor,	6.00
T. V. Kent, labor,	18.75
A. V. Blanchard & Co., timber and labor,	9.50
Ebenezer Brown, nails,	6.35
Enos Calkins, cash paid and labor,	39.20
E. B. Gates, labor,	23.50
John Clough, painting iron bridge,	42.00
P. P. Potter, plank,	148.72
Geo. Mooers, cash pd., labor on Three Rivers bridge,	105.90
Dwight Manufacturing Company, pile driver,	35.00
Alvin Hastings, timber and labor,	11.10
Jonas Blodgett, " "	20.00
M. C. Fenton, " "	116.01
B. B. Fenton, " "	138.51
George Mooers, plank,	37.70
A. W. Clark, painting iron bridge, Depot,	27.55
Franklin Morgan, plank,	100.00
D. G. Potter, timber and labor,	96.33
Jerald & Folay, labor,	4.00
E. B. Gates, timber,	78.60
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	\$1,185.28

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid Town of Ware, support of Mrs. Hastings,	\$67.62
Amasa Davis, medical services,	30.75
E. B. Gates, cash paid for Orison Hill,	10.00
E. B. Gates, cash paid for Amidon, &c.,	8.00
J. D. Sawyer, moving Bacon family,	6.50
Dr. F. W. Calkins, medical services,	61.50
Town of Ware, support of Mrs. Nutting,	65.91
“ “ “ Mrs. Hastings,	184.09
Stephen G. Newton, wagon for poor farm,	20.00
D. G. Potter, support of Calkins family,	601.92
John Barber, blacksmithing, poor farm, for 1864,	12.70
Shaw & Nichols, flour, “ “	19.00
Shaw & Smith, “ “	10.00
Erastus Keith, cash out,	90.12
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	\$1,188.11

HIGHWAYS.

Paid Ephraim Fenton, building road,	\$220.00
Enos Calkins, cash paid and labor in district 4,	38.85
Ephraim Fenton, labor in district 4,	78.50
J. E. Crane, in district 2,	68.50
J. A. Palmer, in district 12,	24.30
Keyes Foster, in district 10,	36.75
E. G. Hastings, in district 11,	7.50
C. R. Shaw, in districts 8 and 9,	27.86
R. S. Hastings, in district 13,	9.50
J. O. Hamilton, in district 5,	31.38
Seva Brown, in districts 8 and 9,	75.00
Timothy F. Stever, in district 3,	71.00
Jonas Blodgett, in district 6,	76.00
John Graves, in district 4,	15.00
George Fleming, in district 7,	47.74
Hiram Converse, in district 5,	9.00
Joshua Graves, in district 12,	18.71
Asa M. Morse, in district 11,	280.11
Hiram Converse, in district 5,	27.60
Elias Paul, in district 1,	71.70
T. F. Stever, in district 3,	299.60
C. R. Shaw, in district 9,	116.06
J. E. Crane, in district 2,	232.22
E. B. Gates, in district 13,	89.95
Keyes Foster, in district 10,	48.60
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Amount carried forward,	\$2,021.43

Amount brought forward,	\$2,021.43
Paid Hiram Converse, in district 5,	76.55
J. A. Palmer, in district 12,	104.04
Keyes Foster, in district 10,	3.50
T. F. Stever, in district 3,	82.70
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	\$2,288.22

CEMETERIES.

Paid Elisha Converse for three acres of land,	\$901.65
Wm. N. Flynt, stone posts,	45.00
A. V. Blanchard & Co., lumber for fence,	136.00
R. B. Caswell, bolts for fence,	25.50
John Ward, cash paid for labor on fence,	27.87
Erastus Keith, labor on fence,	33.30
Wm. Robinson, " "	36.50
John Newton, surveying and making plan,	5.00
Wm. Snow, building fence,	10.50
John Clough, painting and repairing fence,	89.19
E. B. Gates, lumber for fence,	24.62
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	\$1,335.13

SUMMARY.

Paid for schools,	\$2,112.90
For the poor,	1,188.11
Bridges,	1,185.28
Highways,	2,288.22
Notes,	6,857.17
Outstanding orders and interest,	3,227.29
State tax,	6,721.00
County tax,	1,146.85
Cemeteries,	1,335.13
Reimburse'm't of moneys pd. for recruiting purposes,	7,816.40
State aid,	2,651.76
Contingent expenses,	1,631.69
Interest on notes,	994.27
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	\$39,156.07

AMOUNT DUE THE TOWN.

From State aid to families,	\$2,926.76
R. S. Hastings, collector,	566.38
Town of Brimfield,	140.75
Town of Monson,	97.58
Balance in Treasury,	6,745.11
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	\$10,476.58

DEBTS OF THE TOWN.

Notes :—

Mrs. Julia Scism,	\$1,000.00
William S. Nichols,	700.00
Reuben Rogers,	300.00
Henry E. Bolton,	800.00
Horace Hunn,	900.00
Prosper Howard,	1,000.00
Mary Cannon,	1,200.00
J. K. Childs,	1,500.00
Robert McMaster,	3,000.00
Ralph Green,	2,850.00
E. B. White,	1,000.00
A. N. Dewey,	1,400.00
Enos Calkins,	500.00
Waterman Fuller,	500.00
Elias Turner,	1,000.00
E. B. Gates,	200.00
Lucy D. Tiffany,	300.00
Franklin Morgan,	3,500.00
Shem Loomis,	700.00
Susan Fenton,	500.00
Susan Rogers,	500.00
E. B. White,	700.00
Leander Breard,	160.00
Robert McMaster,	650.00
Interest due on the above,	1,600.00

\$26,460.00

Old orders outstanding,	911.05
Orders outstanding given within the last year,	339.88
Claims against the town, March 1st, 1866,	166.39
Due the several school districts,	912.60
Wm. K. Vaille, services as school committee,	42.50

Amount carried forward, \$28,832.42

Amount brought forward,	\$28,832.42 -
Enos Calkins, services as selectman,	74.75
Enos Calkins, services as overseer poor,	25.00
Enos Calkins, to sending and carrying paupers to State Alms-house,	69.50
Enos Calkins, cash paid out of town,	11.00
Enos Calkins, stationery and postage,	6.00
Enos Calkins, wood and goods furnished paupers,	4.80
George Mooers, services as selectman,	60.00
George Mooers, services as overseers poor,	32.00
George Mooers, expenses out of town,	15.00
George Mooers, cash paid repairing bridges,	19.75
George Mooers, relieving paupers,	4.00
George Mooers, wood for Mrs. Snow,	5.00
Due Erastus Keith, 1st April, 1866, services,	300.00
Due Erastus Keith, cash paid out,	34.77
Due for money paid for recruiting purposes,	250.00
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Amount due the town,	\$29,743 99
	10,476.58
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Balance against the town,	\$19,267.41

Respectfully submitted,

ENOS CALKINS, } *Selectmen*
 GEORGE MOOERS, } *of Palmer.*

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

For the Year ending March 1, 1866.

Inventory, March 1st, 1865,	\$1,556.10
Interest on cost of farm,	180.00
Superintendent's salary,	300.00
Expenses out,	921.88
	<hr/> \$2,957.98

RECEIPTS.

Inventory, March 1st, 1866,	\$1,714.35
Receipts from poor farm,	508.04
	<hr/> \$2,222.39

Balance against the town farm,	\$735.59
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Bills for repairing the building are included in this Report.

Respectfully submitted,

ENOS CALKINS, } *Overseers of*
GEORGE MOOERS, } *the Poor.*

REPORT OF THE LIQUOR AGENCY,

FOR 1865-6.

EXPENSES.

To inventory of liquors, barrels, &c., on hand	
March 1st, 1865,	\$161.38
Salary of Agent,	50.00
U. S. license,	25.00
Freight on liquors,	4.02
Casks for liquors,	6.40
Liquors purchased by agent,	315.31
	<hr/> \$562.11

RECEIPTS.

By inventory of liquors, &c., March 1st, 1866,	\$164.44
Cash received for liquors, &c., sold,	488.53
	<hr/> \$652.97

Balance in favor of agency,	\$90.86
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Respectfully submitted,

ORRIN P. ALLEN, *Town Agent.*

TOWN WARRANT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

HAMPDEN, SS.

To Lyman A. Nelson, Constable of the Town of Palmer, greeting: In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn all the inhabitants of the town of Palmer, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall in said Palmer, on Monday, the nineteenth day of March, instant, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to act on the following articles, viz.:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside in said meeting.

ART. 2. To determine the number of Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, School Committee, and Constables the town will choose for the ensuing year.

ART. 3. To elect all necessary town officers for the year ensuing.

ART. 4. To act upon the Report of the School Committee, Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and other town officers.

ART. 5. To see if the town will vote to abolish the School Districts.

ART. 6. To see if the town will authorize each School District to choose their own Prudential Committee, and authorize them to contract with school teachers for their respective districts.

ART. 7. To see if the town will vote to instruct the School Committee to appoint a Superintendent of the Town Schools, and establish his salary.

ART. 8. To raise such sums of money as are necessary to defray the current expenses of the town for the year ensuing, and appropriate the same.

ART. 9. To see if the town will raise any money to reduce the debts of the town.

ART. 10. To determine the manner of repairing the Highways and Bridges the ensuing year.

ART. 11. To determine the course the town will take to collect the Taxes that may be assessed the year ensuing.

ART. 12. To see if the town will allow a discount upon the taxes that may be assessed, and state the terms and conditions of the same.

ART. 13. To see if the town will make any By-Laws and Regulations to prevent the pasturing of cattle and other animals upon the streets and highways of the town.

ART. 14. To see if the town will accept the list of Jurors, as revised by the Selectmen.

ART. 15. To see if the town will vote to pay Ralph Green ten dollars that he paid to raise recruits, not found on the subscription papers. Also to instruct the Treasurer to pay Ralph Green's note against the town within one year.

ART. 16. To see if the town will vote to procure or build a Lock-up for the use of the town.

ART. 17. To see if the town will vote to repair the Fire-Proof Safe belonging to the town, or exchange it for a new one.

ART. 18. To see if the town will vote to pay back the three hundred dollars paid by persons who were drafted in the years 1863 and 1864 as Commutation Money,—persons who were actually residents of said town,—and also to see if the town will vote to raise the money and pay the same.

ART. 19. To hear reports of Committees.

ART. 20. To choose Committees, and give them instructions.

The names of Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of Poor, and Constables who are voted for must all be upon one ballot,—Town Clerk and Treasurer upon a separate ballot.

And you are hereby required to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof, at the different public places designated by vote of the town, seven days, at least, before the holding of said meeting. Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, on or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands, this third day of March, A. D. 1866.

ENOS CALKINS, } *Selectmen*
 GEORGE MOOERS, } *of Palmer.*



